

Commission on Streamlining Government

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Roy O. Martin, *Vice Chair*
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ADVISORY GROUP ON THE ELIMINATION OF DUPLICATIVE AND NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES

APPROVED 8/25/09
MINUTES
MEETING OF
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Advisory Group on the Elimination of Duplicative and Non-Essential Services was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2009 in Senate Committee Room F at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The chairman, Barry Erwin, called the meeting to order at 1:19 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The chairman called the roll and the following was noted:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Barry Erwin, Chairman
Senator Jack Donahue
Evans Spiceland
Tony Gordon

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Dawn Romero Watson, Coordinator
Michelle Broussard-Johnson, Researcher
Shannon Simpson, Secretary
Mark Barnes, Budget Analyst
Tony Keck, Governor's Office, Policy Adviser
Shawn Hotstream, Legislative Fiscal Office, DHH/DSS Section Director
Renee Roberie, Legislative Auditor, Senior Auditor

WITNESSES:

No witnesses.

III. DISCUSSION

Chairman Erwin introduced the members of the advisory group.

Jerry Guillot, Chief of Staff, Louisiana Senate, introduced the senate staff working on the advisory group.

Staff from government agencies introduced themselves.

Chairman Barry Erwin discussed that the charge of the advisory group deals with looking at ways to eliminate duplication and unnecessary programs in state government.

- Look very closely at the core work of the agencies that are going to be reviewed, i.e., their mission, what do they do, etc.
- Evaluate whether an agencies' core mission is inline with the services that they provide.
- Look for duplication.
- Look at the services that are provided by the agencies and how they prioritize their core mission and their function.
- Evaluate whether it is essential for the agency to exist and provide the services it is providing.
- Evaluate whether the particular service obsolete in some way.
- Determine whether when the agency is trying to focus on its core mission and the core services that they are charged to provide, some things fall further down in the scheme of things in terms of those priorities.

Dawn Watson discussed resources advisory group can use to get started:

- Responses to Commissioner Davis' memo dated July 16, 2009, sent to all executive cabinet members requesting each department to name a liaison to the Commission on Streamlining Government and fill out a questionnaire which included information on duplicative and nonessential services in their agency.

- Treasurer Kennedy's correspondence to Senator Donahue requesting different data elements.
- Responses to Senator Donahue's memo to statewide elected officials which requested each department to name a liaison to the Commission on Streamlining Government and fill out a questionnaire which included information on duplicative and nonessential services in their agency.
- Ideas that come in through a website set up for the Commission to get input and ideas from public regarding how government can function more efficiently and effectively.
- Select Counsel on Revenue and Expenditures in Louisiana's future (SECURE) issued its report in 1995, including over 100 recommendations to improve Louisiana's financial future and the general quality of life of its citizens.
- Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget report entitled "Cutting the Fat" from 2001 which could be used as groundwork for both short-term and long-term solutions to problems plaguing state government operations.
- Governor Jindal's December 2008 report entitled "State of Louisiana Efficiency and Effectiveness Audit" which included responses to his request of his cabinet agencies to identify wasteful spending, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and specific opportunities for cost-saving practices.
- Report by the legislative auditor's office in April, 2000, "Analysis of Overlap, Duplication, Fragmentation across Executive Branch Departments" and its updates.

Senator Donahue discussed that the information he would like to see is a concise statement, organized by department, that indicates:

- The programs administered by that department.
- The cost of the program.
- The number of people served by the program and the benefit.
- Some idea on what's essential and what's not essential.

Chairman Erwin discussed prioritizing tasks to meet time lines.

Tony Gordon requested an organizational chart or any other resource that can help clarify where the state of Louisiana is at today. Specifically, he would like to see:

- An organizational chart for each state department which staff agreed to provide to the Advisory Group.
- The power point presentation by Commissioner of Administration presented at the first commission meeting outlined the issue in terms of the anticipated shortfall of state general fund (SGF) and largest expenditures of SGF which staff agreed to provide to the Advisory Group.
- Appropriation letters which are issued annually by the Commissioner of Administration to each agency of state government because it outlines concisely the amount of funding and funding source for that particular agency which staff agreed to provide FY 2010 letters to the Advisory Group.

Senator Donahue stated that he would like to look at federal funds in addition to SGF.

Senator Donahue discussed putting together by department, their organization chart, their core mission, and their response to the Commissioner Davis' questionnaire regarding elimination of duplication and unnecessary services.

Chairman Erwin scheduled next meeting for August 25, 2009 @ 1:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Donahue made a motion to adjourn without objection. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

APPROVED 8/25/09

Barry Erwin, *Chairman*

Date